

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13-16 are pending in the application.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. The examiner points out that in claims 1 (line 26), 13 (line 2), 15 (line 22) and 16 (line 22) the term lateral surfaces appears to be the same as "sidewalls" defined previously in the claim, respectively. The claims have been amended accordingly.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims pursuant to 35 USC 112 are therefore respectfully requested.

### **Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103**

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Applicant's Admitted prior Art* and *JP 9-209723*.

Claim 1 has been amended by including the features of allowable claim 11 so that the above rejection no longer applies to claim 1 and its dependent claims.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112; the presented amendments are believed to have overcome the rejections and are therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claim.

Claim 10 has been rewritten to include the features of claims 1, 4, 6 and should thus be allowable.

Claim 11 has been incorporated into claim 1; claim 1 as amended should thus be allowable.

**Four independent claims** are now presented; the fee for one independent claim in excess of three is being paid concurrently by credit card.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned

would appreciate a phone call or **e-mail** from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on April 5, 2007,

/Gudrun E. Hockett/

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